

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 17 and 32-36 are herein canceled. Applicants make no statement regarding the propriety of the rejections of these claims and preserve the right to pursue patent protection for the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application without prejudice.

Claim 37 is written in independent form and includes the description of base Claim 36.

Claim 39 is herein canceled.

Claim 40 is amended to use wording and structure more consistent with U.S. patent law practice.

Claims 41-45 are amended to depend from Claim 37.

No new matter is added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Claims 37-38 and 40-45 are active.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 36, 39 and 41-45 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Uetani et al. (WO2004/099340) is moot in view of the cancellation of Claim 36, herein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

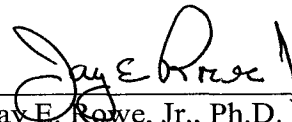
The rejection of Claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is obviated by appropriate amendment. Claim 40 is written in the form suggested by the Examiner.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Nguyen for the indication that Claims 37 and 38 would be allowable if written in independent form (Claim 37) including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 37 is so amended herein. Claims 41-45 are amended to depend from Claim 37, herein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such status is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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